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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BAE SYSTEMS PLC** [GB/GB]; 6 Carlton Gardens, London SW1Y 5AD (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **TULL, Michael, Alan** [GB/GB]; Bae Systems Underwater Weapons, Eleetra Avenue, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7XS (GB).

(74) Agent: **GROUP IP DEPARTMENT**; Bae Systems plc, P.O. Box 87, Lancaster House, Farnborough Aerospace Centre, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6YU (GB).

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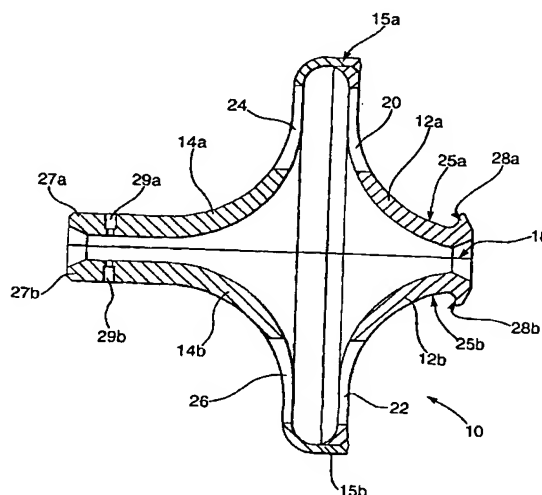
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(57) **Abstract:** Described herein is a splice chamber (10) for accommodating excess optical cable obtained when making a fusion splice connection between two reels of cable. The chamber (10) comprises two portions (12a, 12b, 14a, 14b) which define a space (16) for the optical cable. The chamber (10) is constructed to divide into two longitudinal half portions along a longitudinal line (18), but each end is retained until conditions are suitable for release. The space (16) inside of the chamber (10) is shaped to determine the bend radius for the enclosed optical cable and protects the cable during storage and handling. When a predetermined force is applied to one end (27a, 27b) of the chamber (10), the two longitudinal half portions separate to release the optical cable stored therein, pivoting about the other end (28a, 28b).

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